



The Village Crier

A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society
www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org

President's Message

Much has changed in the world since our last Newsletter in February of 2020. Our world is suffering from a pandemic like no other seen. Lives have been greatly disrupted and many lives lost. I hope this edition of the Village Crier finds you and your family safe and well, taking every precaution you can to avoid the COVID 19 virus.

In an email from a fellow museum director was an article about perspective. I have been granted permission to include it here for you to read.

"Imagine you were born in 1900. On your 14th birthday, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday. 22 million people perish in that war. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. 50 million people die from it in those 2 years. Yes, 50 Million! On your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, the World GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet, and don't even try to catch your breath. On your 41st birthday, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthdays, 75 million people perish in the war. At 50, the Korean War starts. 5 million perish. At 55 the Vietnam War begins and doesn't end for 20 years. 4 million people perish in that conflict. On your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, should have ended. Great leaders prevented that from happening. When you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900.

How do you survive all of that? When you were a kid in 1985 and didn't think your 85 year old grandparent understood how hard school was and how mean that kid in your class was, yet they survived through everything listed above. Perspective is an amazing art, refined as time goes on, and enlightening like you wouldn't believe. Let's try and keep things in perspective."

Even though this pandemic has cancelled our Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show, our regular monthly meetings, our Board meetings, our opening in May, our June YARD SALE, our Annual Pot Luck Dinner, and our Trick or Treat event, it has not stopped us from moving forward completely. The raffle from the Spring Luncheon will take place on August 24. Details will follow later. There are many wonderful items to be shared. Tickets for the raffle can be purchased by contacting Gina at 216-403-9226.

Our building check team has been very faithful in checking the buildings throughout the winter and during this trying time. Work in the Chapman House continues as the room off the kitchen is restored and being readied for a display room. The wood on the windows and door has been brought back to its beautiful original look. Walls, ceiling and floor have been repaired and resurfaced as needed. This has been hours and hours of work, all done by a volunteer with patience, dedication and appreciation for the way things were.

In the Lathrop House the kitchen floor has been replaced with a new beautiful slate look. Funding for this project came from proceeds from

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a past Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show. It looks amazing. The Lathrop Dining Room has also received a new look. With funds from memorial donations we were able to paint and wallpaper this room. It's new Victorian, elegant look makes it totally new and bright! The Parlor in the Lathrop House is also undergoing a transformation. Paint and wallpaper are being installed. No more painted walls. Once again the Victorian look is very evident in this beautiful room. The furniture and accessories look very striking with the new clean background. Memorial donations were used for this project also.

Requests for rental of the Great Room in the Lathrop House continue to come in. As of now we are closed through July with beyond that uncertain.

At this point in time we are not accepting any donations to our collections. Please call when we are able to open to set an appointment to make a donation. If you would be so kind to just set items aside for us we will gladly get together when it is safe for all to do so.

We have some very dedicated workers who have committed to keeping our gardens looking fresh over the summer. If you would like to help, please let Tom know at 440-590-2583. It only takes a little time each week and you work alone or with a family member in an assigned area. Please call if you can help.

I know this was very long but I wanted you all to know that we are taking good care of our Village and collection items during this time and that we will open again when it is safe.

Be SAFE!

Ruth Brickley

Information about the changes being made to Bonnie Park may be found on the Historical Society web site. On the main page in a box about Bonnie Park Restoration.....enjoy the information and let the memories flow!

Olds General Store

It is uncertain when we will be open at the Village again, but it is certain that when we meet again the store will be stocked with a new shipment of Strongsville pottery. If you need a new coffee mug or soup mug or sugar canister or planter or utensil holder we have them at last year's prices. No price increase. Just send an email to marieshaw8@aol.com and we will pick it up at the store, wrap your purchase in our signature bag, bring it to our house, and you can do a porch pick up. The store still only takes cash (our prices include tax) or check made out to the Strongsville Historical Society with your phone number on it.

For the vintage tea cup collector - when we open come see the new display of porcelain cups and saucers. They are simply beautiful. So until we do meet again, stay safe and stay well.

Historical Tidbits

Strongsville's youngsters were first schooled in private homes (cabins) until log cabin schools were built. In 1823, our township was divided into 10 districts of one-room, wood-frame school houses. The Ohio Legislature created public schools in 1825, but there was little funding. Communities had to make it happen on their own. School attendance in Ohio was not mandatory until 1921. Even then, anything beyond 7th grade could be waived for students to work as farmers.

Just what is a "tidbit" anyway?

First usage was in the 1600, probably from dialectal tid "fond, solicitous, tender" (perhaps by influence of tit (n.2)) + bit (n.1) "morsel." Now mostly used to describe an interesting piece of information.

In Memoriam

Our sincere sympathies go out to the family and friends of Historical Society member June Kroupa who recently passed away. June and her husband Fred (also deceased) were longtime members and supporters of the Society.

Sincere sympathies are also expressed to the family and friends of longtime members Neal Coughlin and Eileen Bambam. Neal served the Society in many roles - President (serving in this role multiple times), Board Member and valued historian, to name just a few. Eileen volunteered her time in many ways also, including serving as a docent and as the valuable ticket sales chairman for the annual Chicken Dinner. Both were familiar faces at Society events, especially the Harvest Festival. They will be missed by all. As designated by the Coughlin and Bambam families, memorial donations made be sent to the Historical Society by those wishing to honor them.

Third Grade Tours

Normally, during the month of May, the 3rd grade students have a field trip to the Village. Several teachers came to the Village and made videos of the outsides of the buildings, while giving interesting facts about early life. Some of our volunteers provided the school coordinator with bits of information that could be told while recording. The learning objective is "life then, compared to now". All the students will be required to watch the video, and write a paragraph on something interesting they learned. Bravo to everyone who helped make this happen!

Lathrop House

Due to the uncertainty of social distancing and gathering limitations currently in place, rentals for the Lathrop House are not being scheduled for now through the end of July. An opening up date for rentals will be determined at a later date. Please check our website for updates: www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org.

Spring Raffle to be held August 24th

As you know, the annual Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon, scheduled for March 14 and re-scheduled for May 16, was unfortunately cancelled this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This luncheon is a major fund raiser for the Historical Society, raising funds to help keep the buildings on our property, plus the property itself - in good shape and running smoothly. We would like to sincerely thank all those who supported our luncheon this year despite its cancellation - we truly appreciate your support for our endeavor! Your generosity has allowed us to carry on with much needed restoration and renovation projects, as well as upkeep of the Village.

We will be holding the raffle, originally planned to take place at the luncheon, on August 24 at the Historical Village. We have donations of some lovely items, as well as gift cards for goods and services. We are postponing the raffle until August in the hope that by then the salons and restaurants will be open, operating, and able to honor their gift donation. If you are interested in purchasing raffle tickets and supporting this event, please contact Gina at 216-403-9226 or Pam at 440-773-6605 and leave a message. We will make sure you get some tickets!!! You need not be present at the raffle to win, we will make sure you get your prize. Please check the web site for further details of this event www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org.

Where did you Go?

If you have changed your address, phone number or email recently, please contact us at the Historical Society. We need to keep this information current so that you continue to receive the newsletter as well as membership information. Also, if you know that a member has passed, we would appreciate you letting us know. You can contact us at 440-572-0057 to relay any changes or death notices.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are no currently scheduled events or meetings at the village.

The Spring Fashion show raffle has been re-scheduled for August 24th

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